Hardships of the Farmers in Dry Areas

1268. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in dry areas are coming under growing hardships while farmers in irrigated area becoming better off and relative economic disparity is increasing;

(b) what is the number of the dry and the irrigated districts in the country;

(c) what is the percentage of the production of major agricultural commodities in dry and irrigated areas respectively; and

(d) what is the number of farmers covered in dry areas and also those in irrigated areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Appropriate technologies both for irrigated and dry areas have been developed and are being transferred to raise the production in both sectors. In fact, with more emphasis for dry land technology in recent years, the economic disparity in the two sectors is being reduced.

(b) On the basis of land use statistica district-wise (latest available), about 37. 5 per cent of the disticts are observed to be having irrigated area above the All-India level.

(c) The production estimates of agricultural commodities separately for irrigated and unirrigated areas are not worked out at the All-India level.

(d) The number of farmers covered in dry areas and those in irrigated areas are not available. However, according to the Agricultural Census, 1985-86, the estimated number of •operational holdings receiving irrigation and holdings wholly unirrigated are 41. 88 and 51. 33 million units respectively in the country.

Establishment of Railway Divisions at Ahmedabad, Malda, Bhopal and Ambala

1269. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has agreed in principle long ago that Railway Divisions at Ahmedabad, Malda, Bhopal and Ambala should be established;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railway Divisions at Malda, Bhopal and Ambala are established;

(c) the reasons for wrich the question of financial constraints is being raised by the department in relation to Ahmedabad; and

(d) when the consideration for new super fast train between Ahmedabad and Bombay would mature into a positive decision?

THE MINIS-ER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The availability of funds has been and is, even today, a necessary pre-requisite for the creation of new divisions. In view of the severe resource constraint presently prevalent, the Ministry of Railways is not going in for the creation of any new Railway divisions.

(d) A New Inter-city Express will be introduced between Ahmedabad and Bombay Central from July 1991.

Allocation of funds for Agriculture..

1270. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 9 percent of the plan allocation was made for agriculture and rural development during